

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /051 W

----- 008360

P R 161222Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2134

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22999

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT TH

SUBJECT: GENERAL PRAPHAT RETURNS TO THAILAND

REF: TAIPEI 5530(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FORMER STRONGMAN GENERAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN APPARENTLY RETURNED TO THAILAND SURREPTITIOUSLY ON AUGUST 15. HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN. MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY ALSO RETURNED. END OF SUMMARY.

1. POLICE CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF ON AUGUST 16 THAT GENERAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN, FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR, RETURNED TO BANGKOK FROM EXILE IN TAIPEI ON AUGUST 15 VIA CHINA AIRLINES. PRAPHAT, WHO RETURNED ALONE, WAS MET BY A MILITARY OFFICER (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) AND ESCORTED OUT OF THE AIRPORT WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH THE NORMAL INCOMING PROCESSING. HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE NOT KNOWN.

2. THE POLICE ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THAT RESEARCH OF THE
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MANIFESTS OF RECENT INCOMING FLIGHTS SHOWED THAT

PRAPHAT'S SON YUTHAPONG HAD LEFT THAILAND ON AUGUST 11 (DESTINATION UNKNOWN BUT PRESUMED TO BE TAIPEI) AND RETURNED TO BANGKOK ON AUGUST 14. PRAPHAT'S DAUGHTER SUMITRA AND AN UNNAMED NEPHEW OF PRAPHAT RETURNED TO BANGKOK ON AUGUST 16 FROM TAIPEI.

3. COMMENT: IF PRAPHAT HAS IN FACT RETURNED, HIS RETURN COULD, AS AMBASSADOR UNGER POINTED OUT IN REFTTEL, PRECIPITATE SERIOUS TROUBLE IN THAILAND. THE STUDENT ACTIVISTS AND THEIR ALLIES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH COULD LEAD TO VIOLENCE.

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORT AGAIN AFTER SITUATION BECOMES CLEARER.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH, (PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN)
To: STATE TAIPEI
Type: TE
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